

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2334

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016

Anti India Message

Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a suo motu cognizance or received complaints of electronic/print media which promotes anti Indian messages, spreading rumours for communal violence in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far on various visual and print media in this regard; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to avoid the airing of such types of news and visuals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) to (c): Programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels are governed by the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of the programmes and advertisements aired on these channels. However, all these channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement codes which provide for a whole range of parameters to be adhered to for programmes on TV channels. There are specific provisions available in the Programme and Advertisement Code which are as under:-

Programme Code:

Rule 6(1) No programme should be transmitted/re-transmitted on any cable service, which-

(c): contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes.

(e): is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes.

(h): Contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation.

Advertising Code

Rule 7(2): No advertisement shall be permitted which-

(ii) is against any provision of the Constitution of India.

(v) exploits the national emblem, or any part of the Constitution or the person or personality of a national leader or a State dignitary.

Action is taken whenever any violation is brought to the notice of this Ministry. Details of action taken for the financial year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 in such matters are placed at Annexure-I.

In so far as Print Media is concerned, the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and also to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. There is no pre-censorship by the Government of India in the print media sector. The PCI, in furtherance of its objective under Section 13(2) of the Act has formulated "Norms of Journalistic Conduct" for adherence by the print media. The relevant Norm 23 on the subject "Paramount National Interest" is placed at Annexure-II. The PCI takes cognizance, suo-motu or on complaints, of the contents in print media which are in violation of the "Norms of Journalistic Conduct". As per section 14 of the Act, the Council, after holding an inquiry, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be.

A list of adjudications rendered by the PCI for the financial year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 on Anti National Writings and Communal Violence is placed at Annexure-III.
